Capsule Summary NATIONAL REGISTER Survey No.: T-48

Name: Crooked Intention

Construction Date: ca. 1717

Town/Vicinity: St. Michaels

County: Talbot

Access: Private

**Summary Description:** 

The house is a one-and-one-half-story brick building, three bays wide, with a lateral gabled roof. Built sometime after 1717, the house was originally only two rooms wide but has been expanded with several additions to the east and west elevations. Several historic outbuildings remain on the property, including a smokehouse, dairy, and barn. Also important to the history of the property is the propagation of the Nellie R. Stevens holly tree by Gustave Van Lennep, a previous owner of Crooked Intention. The property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

ANT. WINGL HELLICIET

Continuation Sheet Page 1

Survey No.: T-48

Name: Crooked Intention

County: Talbot

"Crooked Intention" was originally surveyed for the Maryland Historical Trust by two interns, Ann Hill and Pamela James, sometime before 1974 (there is no date on the form - its certification as a National Register property is January 1, 1974). The property is currently owned by Robert N. Williams and Deborah I. Kuba and encompasses 4.442 acres. Few changes appear to have taken place to the property since the original survey. Most notable are the installation of a jacuzzi and swimming pool east of the main house, smokehouse, and dairy. Another small outbuilding is adjacent to the pool and may have been added since 1974. Several other outbuildings that appear to be historic are located on the property, but were not recorded during the first survey. Northeast of the main house are a barn and two small outbuildings. A garage has also been added northwest of the main house. Also not included in the first survey are several buildings and an holly plantation associated with the Van Lennep family. Gustave Van Lennep was a horticulturist who bred the "Nellie R. Stevens" holly at Crooked Intention. Mr. Van Lennep released his hybrid to the public in 1954. A greenhouse and small holly plantation are still located on the property. These elements will soon meet the 50 year age consideration for inclusion as historic components of the property. A guest house is also located east of the greenhouse.

The National Register form for Crooked Intention on file at MHT does not have a verbal boundary description.<sup>2</sup> The form mentions a 7 acre parcel purchased by the Van Lennep family; however, the topographic map included with the form gives 4 acres as the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Michael A. Dirr, Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Use, Champaign: Stipes Publishing Company, 1990, p 417.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ann Hill and Pamela James, summer interns. National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form, Crooked Intention (T-48), Maryland Historical Trust, n.d. (1974?).

#### NATIONAL REGISTER

## Continuation Sheet Page 2

Survey No.: T-48

Name: Crooked Intention

County: Talbot

parcel size. The current acreage of the property, 4.442 acres (as shown on the accompanying Talbot County tax map no. 32, parcel 151 and USGS topographic of St. Michaels, MD), is the size of the parcel surveyed by John Milner Associates, Inc. in the summer of 1998.

Surveyed by: Rob Yallop (New South Associates, Atlanta, GA) and Rachel Mancini (John Milner Associates, Inc., Alexandria, VA) John Milner Associates, Inc. 5250 Cherokee Avenue, Suite 410 Alexandria, VA 22312 August 3, 1998

#### NATIONAL REGISTER

### Continuation Sheet

Survey No.: T-48

Name: Crooked Intention

County: Talbot

# MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Development Period(s): Contact and Settlement Period (AD 1570-1750)

Historic Period Theme(s): Agriculture; Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning

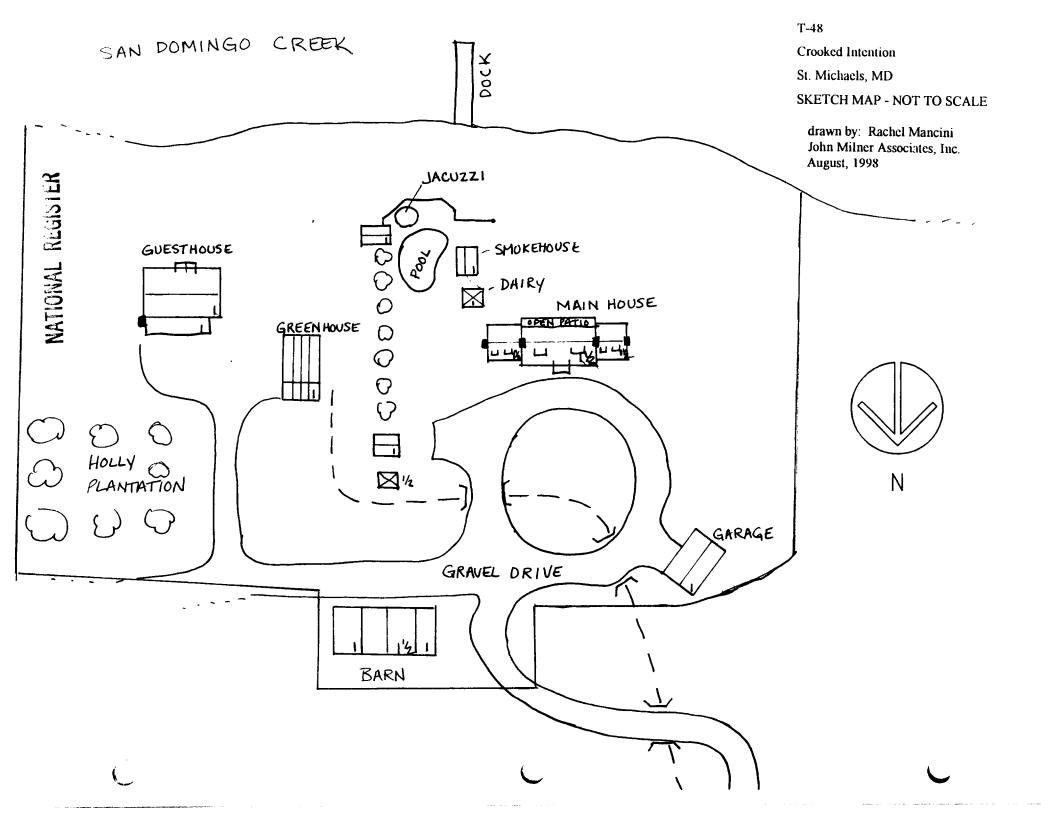
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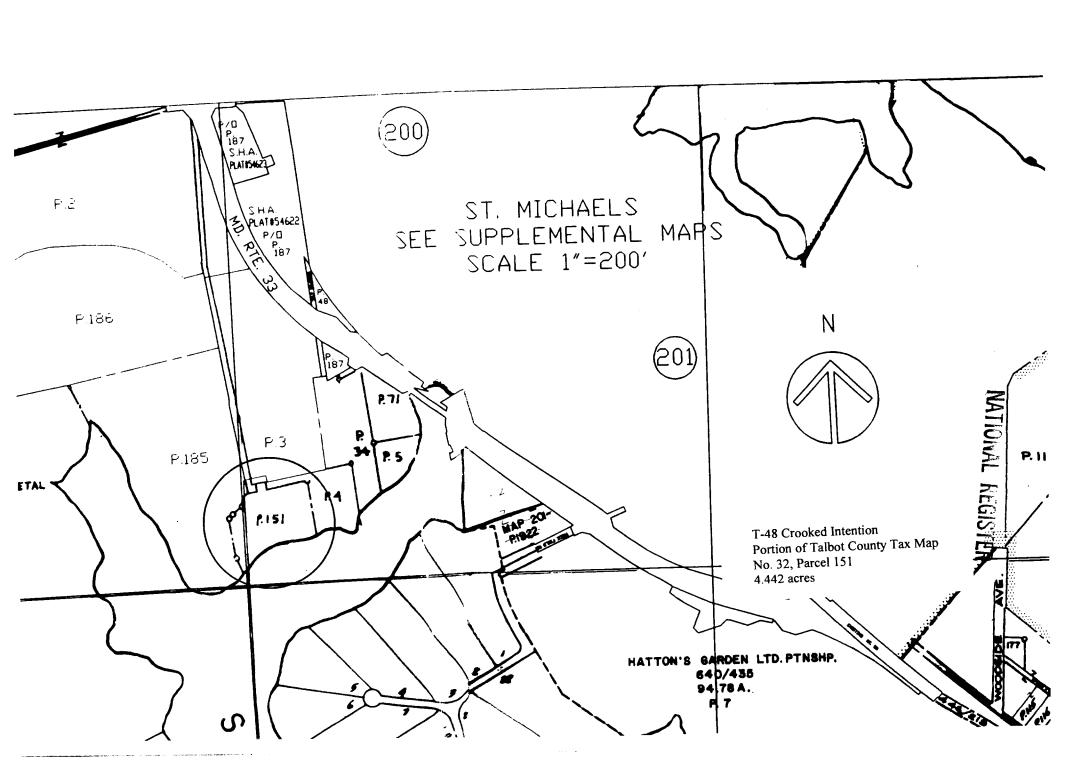
Category: Building

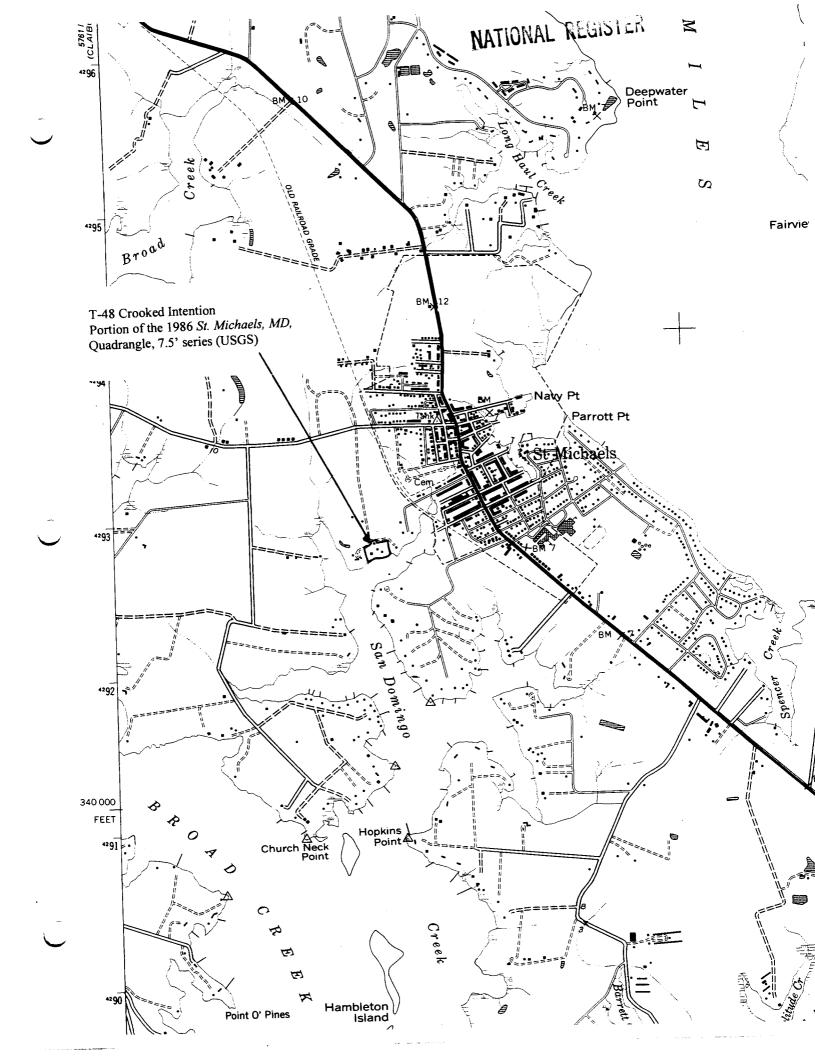
Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): DOMESTIC/single dwelling/secondary structure

Known Design Source: none









Crooked Intention

St. Michaels, Talbot Co. MD

Rachel Mancini

August 3 1998

109-119-110

PROTECS: 98: No. 2 >861 797 86\*\* N H H N 14 2(848)

Main house, looking SW

1 of 9



T-43
Crooked Intention
St. Michaels, Talkol Co. MD
Rachel Mancini
August 3, 1998
negs -> MDSHPO
View looking N at house

and property from dock,

2 of 9

297 86 KEN N N N N B 2 2 CR480



T-48
Crooked Intention
St. Michaels, Talloot Co. MD
Rachel Mancini
August 3, 1998
negs = MD SHPO

Outbuilding, looking S (under 'restoration')

4 of 9

PROTELE 98(No. 4 2003 797 8644 N.N.J. 58 2 (848)



T-48 Crooked Intention & Microels, Talbot Co, MD Rachel Mariem August 3 1998 negs + MD SHPO THE MERKIN N M 1 48 2 (1948)

Outbuildings, looking N 3 of 9



T-48
Crooked Intention
St. Michaels Talbut Co. MD
Rachel Mancini
August 3, 1998
negs > MD SHPO

Outbuilding and Jacuzzi,

5 of 9



T-48
Crooked Intention
St. Michaels, Talbot Co., MD
Rachel Mancin
August 3, 1998
negs > MD SHPO

Pool and jacuzzi, looking S
6 of 9

797 8649 N N N N N A2 2(868)



Crooked Intention

St. Michaels, Talkol Co MD

Rochel Mancini

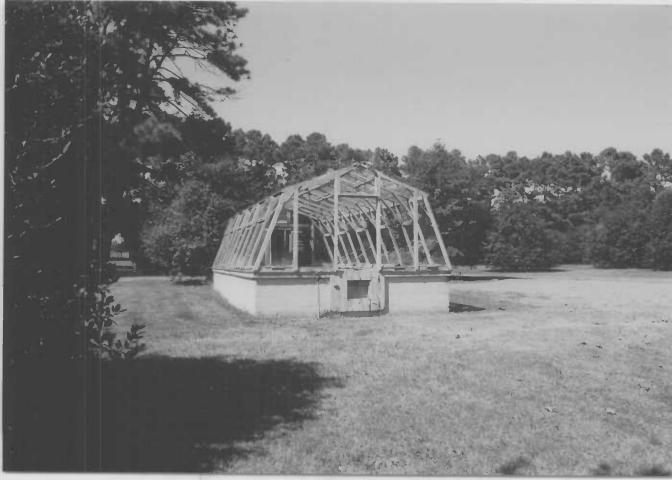
August 3, 1998

neg = MD StPO

Guest house, looking SE 7 of 9

1/23

797 BENER N N N 1-03 208482



Crooked Intention

St Mehods Talbot Co. MD

Rochel Manuni

August 3, 1998

negs > MD SHPO

FROTECS/98KHo-7 2805 737 85k4 N N N 1 84 218482

Greenhouse, looking NE

8 of 9



T-48
Crooked Intention
St. Michaels Talbut Co., MD
Rachel Maricin
August 3, 1998

negs > MD SHPO

Holly grove looking NE

9099

797 9649CH N NO 82 2 (8480)

2100482104

Form 10-309 (Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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2.	LOCATION						
	STREET AND NUMBER:						
	•						
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		St. Michaels					
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	☐ Object	□ Both	☐ Being	Cansidered	Preservation worl		
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DESCRIPTION					4.	
				(Check One)		
CONDITION	X Excellent	Good	☐ Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	Unexposed
CONDITION		(Check Or	те)		(Chi	eck One)
	Alter	ed	🔀 Unaltered		Maved	[2] Original Site

Located on the north bank of San Domingo Creek and one-half mile west of Saint Michael's is Crooked Intention, an early eighteenth century dwelling. This one-and-one-half-story brick structure is three bays wide with wings on both the east and west ends. The west wing was added in 1956 by the present owners. The original house had a symmetrical roof, two rooms, and a one room kitchen. The north facades of the main house and east wing were pushed out approximately eight and one-half feet probably in the second quarter of the eighteenth century. All the windows on the north side have batten shutters. Facing north the main section is brick laid in flemish bond and painted white. The catslide roof is covered with wood shingles. The entrance in the central bay has a six-panel door and is protected by a small hood. closed sides are recent additions. Flanking the entrance are two eight over eight sash windows. The door and windows all have simple frames. The dormers, with six over six sash and steep gable roofs, are contemporary with the deepening of the There is one above the east window and a second between the door and west window.

The east and west gables are both laid in common bond with glazed headers, three rows of stretchers to each row of headers. Each end also has an inside end chimney. The east end, north of the east wing, has a tiny four light casement window in the first story and a six light casement window in the gable. The west end, north of the west wing, has a tiny four light casement window on the first floor and a larger four light casement window in the gable. The gable window on this end was changed from four over four sash to four light when the west wing was added. The first story window was also added at this time. The louvered opening north of the chimney was a four light window.

The east wing, two bays wide and one room deep, is also one-and-one-half stories. The north side is laid in common bond with glazed headers like the ends of the main house. The door on this facade is in the west bay and is also protected by a small hood. The east window situated close to the door, has six over six sash. The narrow, four over four light dormers above the door and between the window and east end, are reproductions of an original one on the south side.

The east end of this wing vividly displays the change in brickwork occasioned by the rorthern extension. The older part, on the south, is laid in common bond with seven rows of stretchers to each row of headers which are unglazed. The extension, however, is laid in common bond with three courses of stretchers to each course of glazed headers. The inside end chimney is flanked by two four-light casement windows,

(See Continuation Sheet)

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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FOR NPS USE ONL	. Y
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(Continuation Sheet) #1

(Number all entries)

#7 Description (Continued)

the north one slightly higher than the southern. The chimney rises above the roof immediately south of the ridge. There is a distinct line in the brickwork indicating the original north edge of the chimney.

The south side of the wing is three bays wide with the center and east bays combined equalling the east bay on the north side. The east six over six light window is located very close to the center door. In the west bay is a second window of identical size, located close to the main house. The brickwork between this window and the door indicates some type of change has occurred. This door also has a hood shielding it. The dormer above the east window is a copy of the original dormer located between the door and west window.

The south facade of the main section is laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers. Its fenestration is identical to that on the north facade. A porch extends across the entire width and is supported by six square posts with chamfered edges. There is a six over six light dormer window above each first story window.

The modern west wing is a very successful addition to the older sections. It is also one-and-one-half stories with a gable roof and is laid in Flemish bond brickwork. The north side has an eight over eight light window in each bay while the south side has an identical window in the west bay and a door in the east one. There is a dormer above the door and window on the south side and between the two windows on the north facade.

The west end of this wing also has an inside chimney. On the first floor is a six over six sash window in the north bay and a tiny two light casement window in the south bay, In the gable, just north of the chimney, is a nine light casement window.

Typical of a house of this period Crooked Intention originally was a two-room dwelling. When the north side was extended the living room was enlarged and a small room was formed off the dining room. The fireplace wall in the living room retains its original panelling which was installed when the house was widened. The fireplace has a simple rectangular molded architrave framing the arched brick opening. The fireplace of this period was built within the large original fireplace which was spanned by a large oak beam. Above the fireplace are six panels. There is no mantel shelf. Left of the fireplace

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

Control of Paris 1

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

	3
STATE	
Maryland	
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Talbot	
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(Number all entries)

#### #7 Description (Continued)

is the doorway into the west wing. To the right is a china closet with four lights in each of the two doors with a tiny closet to the right. At the extreme right steps lead to an enclosed, winding stairway. The door to this stairway retains its original hardware. Surrounding the room is a molded wood cornice and a chair rail with beaded upper and lower edges. The summer beam indicates the original end of the house.

The dining room originally had a staircase where the present fireplace is located. In the late eighteenth century the fireplace was installed with a molded architrave and dentil molding beneath the cornice. The overmantel consists of a single large recessed panel. There is a china closet to the right of the fireplace. A cornice and chair rail surround the room.

The doorway from the dining room into the sitting room is very low. This small room has been further divided to provide for a bath and closet.

The kitchen, in the east wing, has a large, brick, projecting fireplace. The brick, laid in common bond with four courses of stretchers to one of headers, forms a segmental arch over the opening. Beaded panelling flanks the fireplace, housing a closet to the right and an enclosed staircase to the left. The kitchen has exposed beams in the ceiling and a floor that is part brick, laid in a herringbone pattern, and part wood.

On the second story a hall runs along the north side of the main house. The single-board beaded partition in the hall retains its original blue paint. The southeast room also has the same blue panelled walls. This room has a small, arched, brick fireplace flanked by two closets. The tiny closet to the right opens into a crawlspace connecting with the room above the kitchen. The southwest room is much the same but without a fireplace. The door frames are molded and have a beaded inner edge.

The original brick smokehouse still stands southeast of the house. Laid in all stretcher bond, voids in the brickwork form a diamond pattern in the gables. Just north of this is the beaded clapboard dairy which is from Chance's Hope.

			T-48
SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Calumbian;	16th Century	[李 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applical	ble and Known)		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri	ale)	
Abor iginal	Education	Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
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☐ Agriculture	Invention	Science	
Architecture	Londscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Humon-	
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☐ Communications	☐ Military	Theater	
☐ Conservation	☐ Music	Transportation	
Crooked Intentic teenth century taltered, it reta	on is an excell idewater Maryl ins a great de	and dwelling. al of its origi	Basically un- nal woodwork.
Crooked Intentic		_	

Crooked Intention was first so called in 1681 when Hugh Sherwood was granted a patent for 130 acres in Talbot County, Maryland. According to one legend Sherwood had planned to return to England, but this intention was never fulfilled as he decided to settle in Maryland instead. He thus bought land here and named it "Crooked Intention" to signify his revised plans for his future.

Nine years later in 1690, Sherwood sold 50 acres of the tract to Robert Harrison. Harrison then left this to his son Robert, seemingly still unimproved, in his will of 1717. This second Harrison probably built the brick one-and-one-half story house that is extant today soon after he acquired the property. Although there is no record of this, it was in existence at least by 1753 when Harrison died, leaving his "now Dwelling plantation with all the Dwelling houses, outhouses," etc. to his wife, Elizabeth, to be transferred to his son Joseph in the event of her death or remarriage.

Crooked Intention's next owner was Thomas Harrison, the above-mentioned Joseph Harrison's son. It was he who began the mercantile business that eventually became one of the most prosperous businesses in the area and led to the establishment of the town of Saint Michaels. In The History of Talbot County, Oswald Tilghman describes Thomas Harrison as "an independent merchant whose large transactions in tobacco and other country products and whose stocked store of imported goods, were important factors in the growth of a town in his immediate vicinage."<sup>2</sup>

1 Pratt, Richard. The Golden Treasury of Early American Houses, (New York: Hawthorn Books, Inc., 1967), p. 67.

<sup>2</sup>Tilghman, Oswald. A History of Talbot County, Maryland 1661-1861 (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1967), p. 378. (See Continuation Sheet #3)

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Maryland	
COUNTY Talbot	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Y
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(Continuation Sheet) #3

(Number all entries)

#8 Significance (Continued)

Harrison conducted his trade from his farm, the land patented as Crooked Intention but apparently no longer called by that name. A warehouse stood close by his home on the bank of (San Domingo) Creek, and the traders and planters of Talbot and Dorchester Counties brought their tobacco and other goods there to trade for foreign goods. The local products were then sent to Europe and elsewhere in ships leaving from the port of Saint Michaels. Harrison made out well with this and left a flourishing business to his son Samuel when he died in 1802.

About four years later, Samuel Harrison had Crooked Intention and other lands he owned resurveyed and consolidated into a single tract which he called Canton. In 1810, he moved his mercantile business from his farm less than a mile to the town of Saint Michaels. He carried on foreign trade up until this move, but conducted it through the port of Baltimore rather than directly through Saint Michaels as his father had done.<sup>3</sup>

Harrison was also involved in other commercial ventures, including the operation of a mill and the building of ships. He had for a time a "horse mill" on Canton farm from which he made a fair profit. Then in 1819 he took part of the machinery from this mill and combined it with newer machinery to create the first steam mill on the Eastern Shore. He had hoped that this mill, which was to supply flour for the West Indian and South American trade, would be at least as profitable as the first one had been. Instead, it cost a great deal and paid very little. The first successful steam mill on the Eastern Shore was not built for another two decades. 4

Harrison shared his involvement in shipbuilding, it being mainly as a source of capital for more skilled but less soluble men, with Crooked Intention's next owner, Colonel Perry Spencer, a shippard owner. There seems to be no record of the transition in ownership between Harrison and Spencer, but it is possible that the former sold the land after he moved his business from Canton farm to Saint Michaels circa 1810. But, however it came to Spencer, he left about 176 acres of Canton to his daughter, Eleanor Spencer Harrison, wife of Alexander B. Harrison, at his death in 1821. (It is unclear what relation, if any, Alexander B. Harrison bore towards Samuel Harrison). The land was then

(See Continuation Sheet #4)

 $<sup>^{3}</sup>$ IBID., p. 379.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>IBID., p. 390-391.

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #4

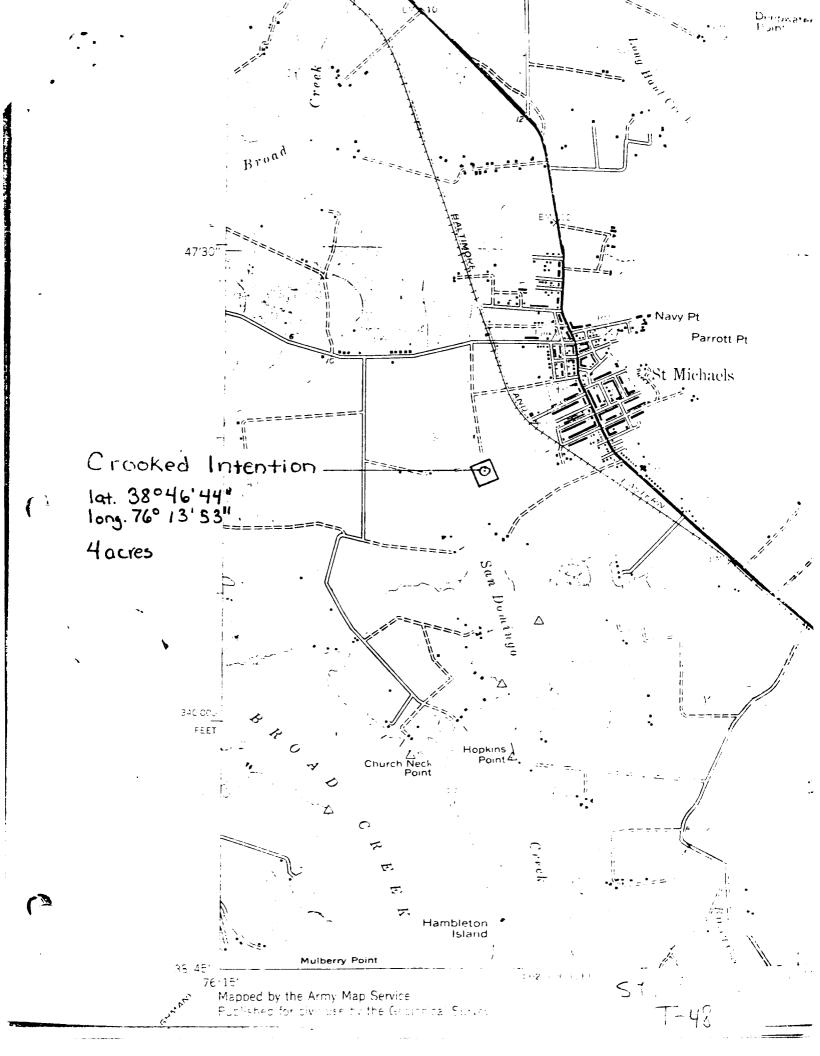
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Talbot	
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(Number all entries)

#8 Significance (Continued)

owned by members of the Harrison family until the death of Mrs. Mary Eneanor Harrison Ruth in 1892. Senator Richard S. Dodson owned it from 1915 to 1945. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Van Lennep, purchased a little over seven acres of Canton farm, including the circa 1720 brick house, in 1947. They added a wing to this house in 1956 and changed its name back to Crooked Intention to avoid confusion with other buildings on Canton farm.

. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES		10
Forman, H. Chandlee. <u>Tidewate</u> <u>Gardens</u> . New York: Bona	r Maryland, Architecture and mza Books, 1956.	
Talbot County Land Records and Maryland.	Wills. Hall of Records, Ann	apoli
Tilghman, Oswald. History of Baltimore: Williams and	Talbot County Maryland 1661-1 Wilkins Company, 1915.	<u>681</u> ,
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA		
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES	LATITUDE AND LONGIT DE COORDINATE	- S
DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY	DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPEL  OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES	RTY
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STATE: CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE: CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE: CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
FORM PREPARED BY		
Ann Hill, Pamela James, Summer	Interns	
Maryland Historical Trust	DATE	
TREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road		
TANAL I	STATE	CODE
Annapolis	Maryland 21401	24
STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION	
As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the c-iteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:  National State Local	I hereby certify that this property is included in National Register.  Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservati	
Name Oslandi Ridons. To  Title State Listanic Tricin	ATTEST:  aConc  Keeper of The National Register	
Date (3.74)		İ





Outbuildings at Crooked Intention - 7-55-48



Choked Intention 7-48 · leus 10 MOB 1968



Crooked Intention



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Mary and Historical Trust Library 21 State Circle Shaw House Annapolis, MD 21401 DO NOT REMOVE

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